Summer 2022 House Projects
&
New Book on Strevell House

for

The Livingston County Historical Society

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Fairbury, Illinois

Sep 15, 2022

Painting North & East Porch Columns

Jones House

Painting North & East Porch Columns

Jones House

All 4 columns got 2 coats of exterior white semi-gloss

Painting North & East Porch Columns

Jones House

Painting Carriage House

Peeling had started on white trim and red upper portion

Painting Carriage House

Painting Carriage House

Turns out red on Carriage House matches red on Strevell House ☺

Painting Carriage House

- Red fades fastest of all colors
- Worst fading on the South side where building gets most sunlight
- Used for target practice by boys with BB guns ☺
  (filled holes with Latex caulk)
- Very difficult to paint
  - -Up, Down, 45 degrees in 2 directions to cover stamped sheet metal

Painting Carriage House

- Painting completed
- 2 coats on White Trim
- 1 coat on red stamped sheet metal

Painting Carriage House

- White boards need painting on kitchen walls
- All white trim needs painted
- Starting to peel on upper facia boards
- Put on the 2023 Summer work list
- Lot more painting on a brick house than what you would think !!

Jones House

Now time for the tough job !

Jones House

- May 2022…..Ron Baker
  "There is Scat in the Jones House basement"

Scat = Grizzly Bear poop

Jones House

Jones House

- Saw daylight when in basement
- Pulled red cover, saw daylight in foundation
- Will come back on a warmer day (was finishing daughter's basement until June 26)

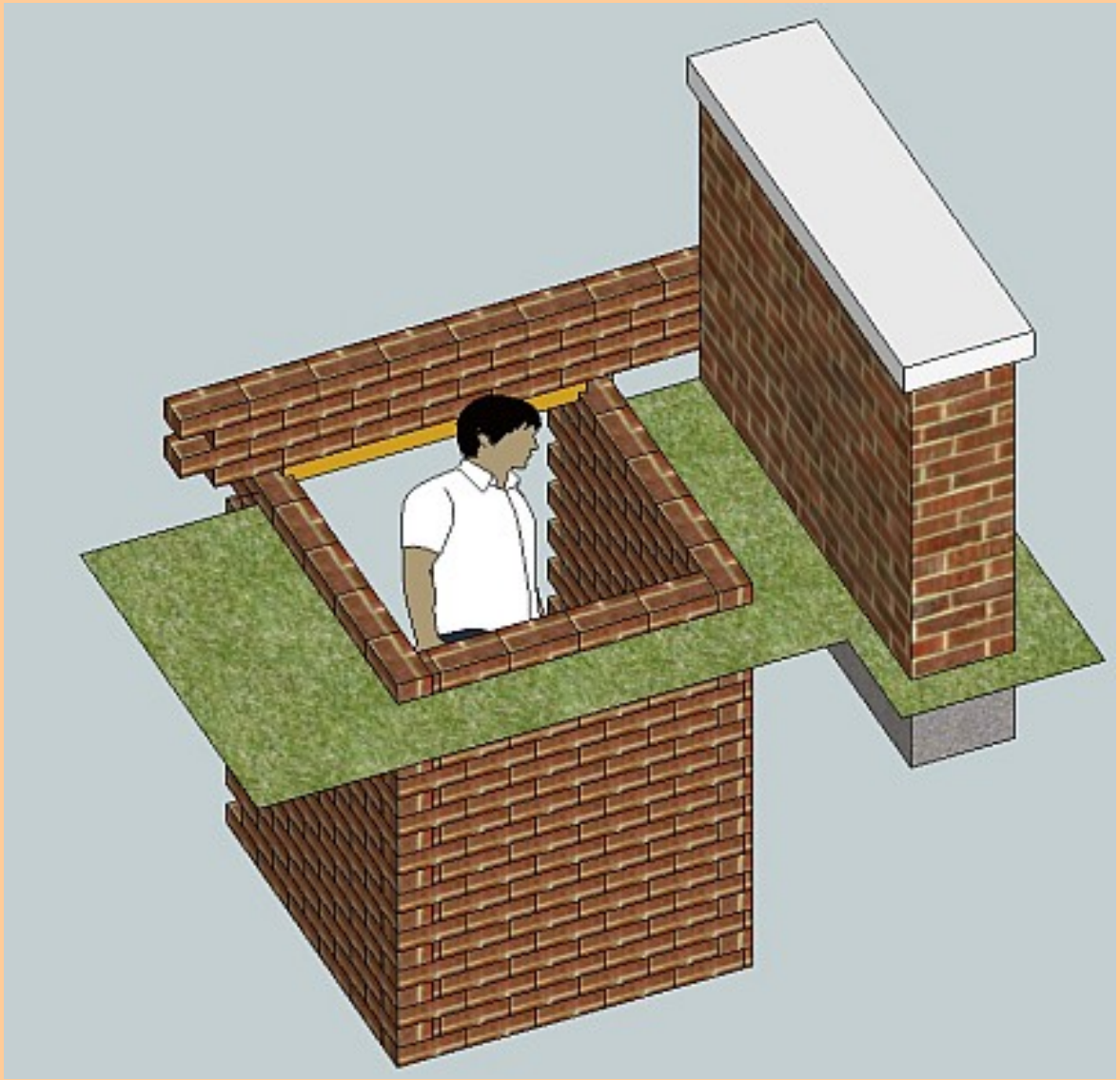
Jones House

Jones House

Jones House

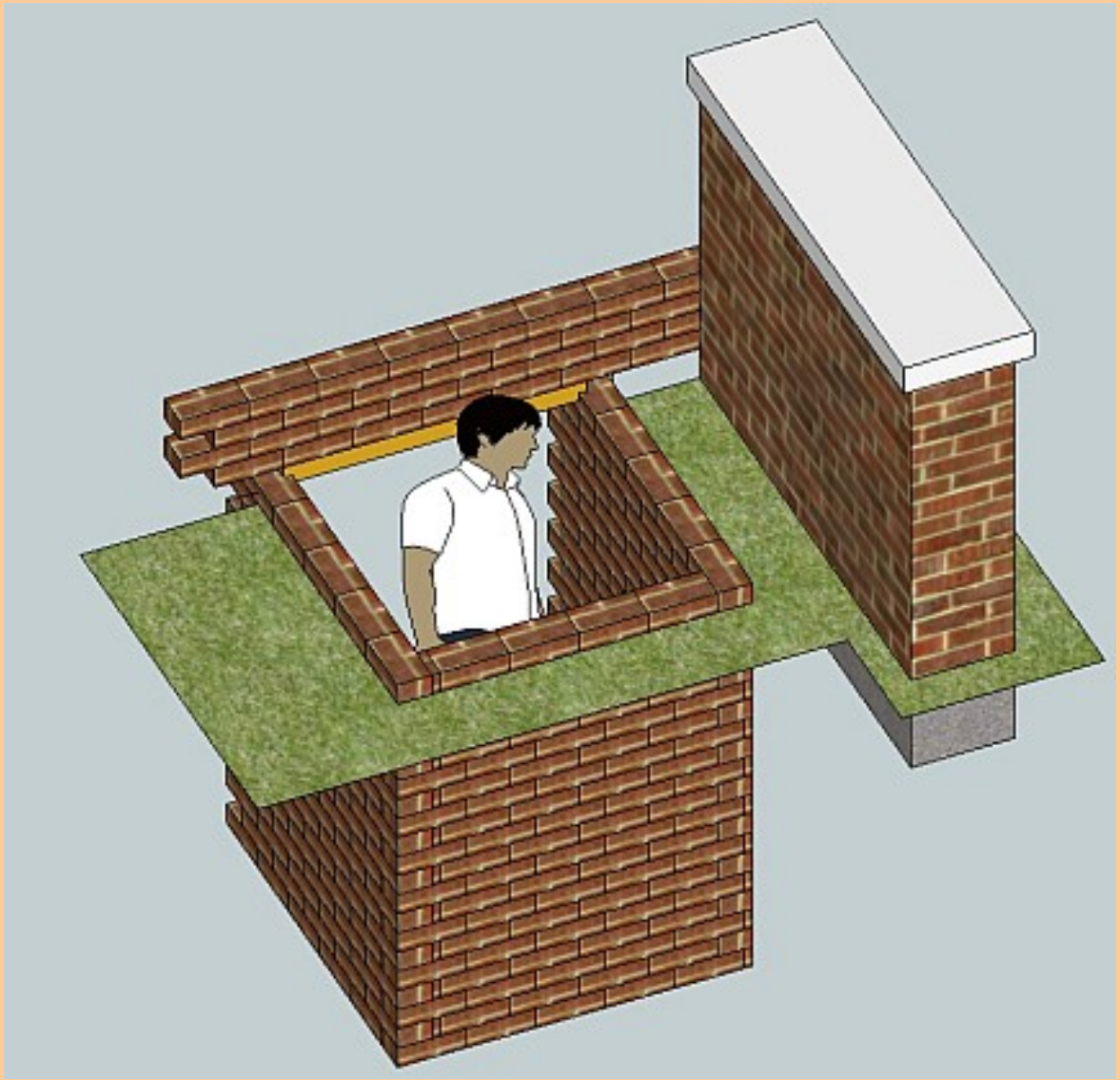
- House burned wood when built
- Wanted to switch to coal
- Can’t cut hole in wall of brick wall house
- Let’s cut a hole in foundation and dig exterior coal chute
- Hole in stacked rock foundation never really repaired

Jones House



- Exterior coal chute added maybe 1870?
- Brick wall around backyard added circa 1978
- 2,000 Lb. brick wall within 10” of a 5 ft. deep hole
- Pushed in north brick lined wall
- Note board support

Jones House



•Story to wife….

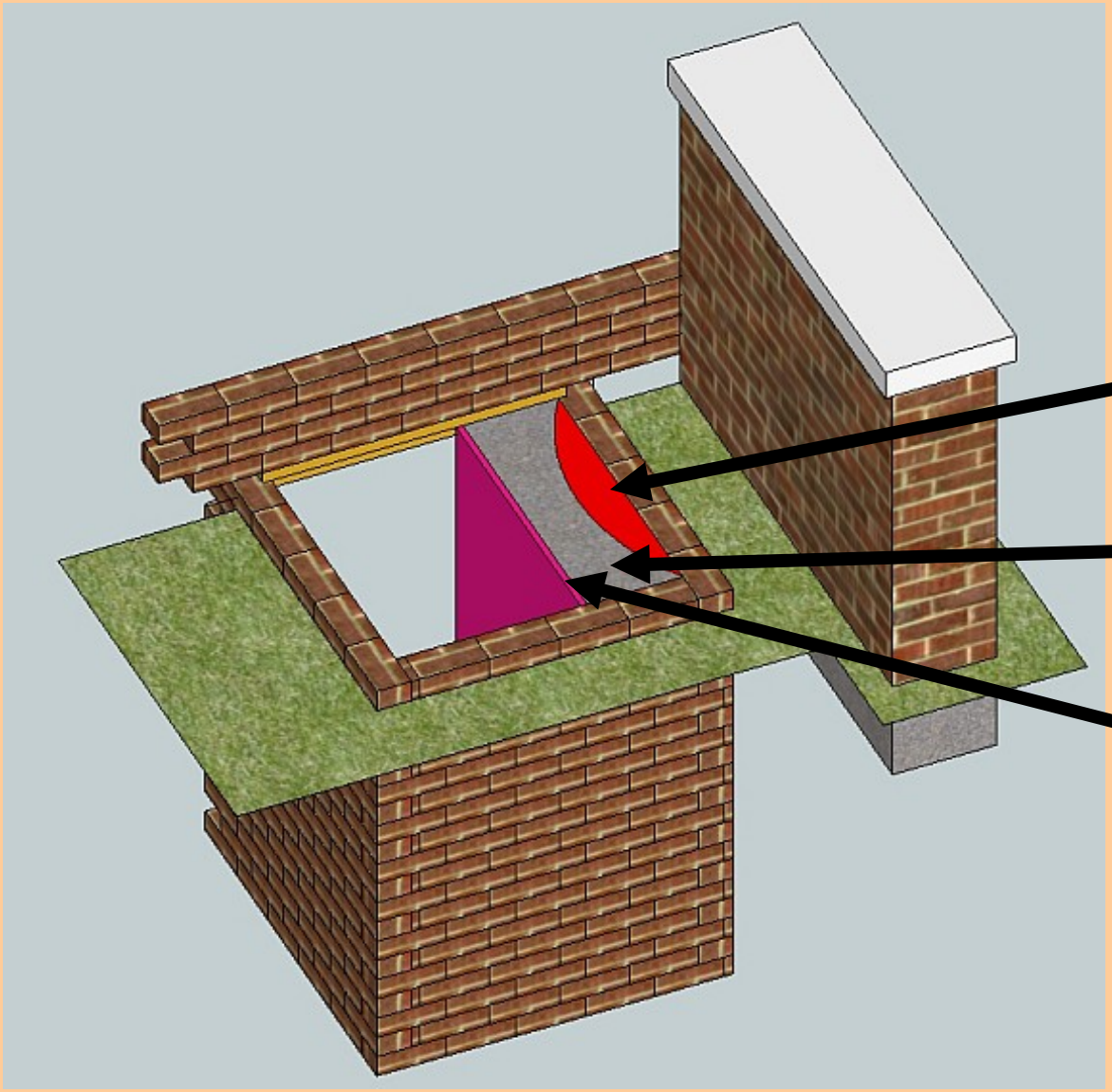
"No safety issues with this project….

If I'm in the hole and wall blows out….

2,000 Lb brick wall falls on me first….

Then the whole brick corner of house ☺

Jones House


Brick wall bulge
New concrete wall
Plywood form, do not touch bulging wall

Jones House

Found coal at bottom!

Jones House

Jones House

Recycled Strevell House sign into concrete form for Jones House ☺

Jones House

Tell “Ambulance & Fire Truck story”

Jones House

Needed something to keep concrete from leaking out of form in Stacked Rock foundation

Jones House

- Needed 24 hours to harden, but worked great

Jones House

Jones House

Phase #1 Complete

Jones House

Concrete Pad to Lay new Concrete Block Wall

Jones House

Concrete Pad to Lay new Concrete Block Wall is Poured

Jones House

Starting to lay new block wall to close hole in stacked rock foundation plus support top board

Jones House

Phase #2
New Block Wall
to close hole in
foundation
Completed

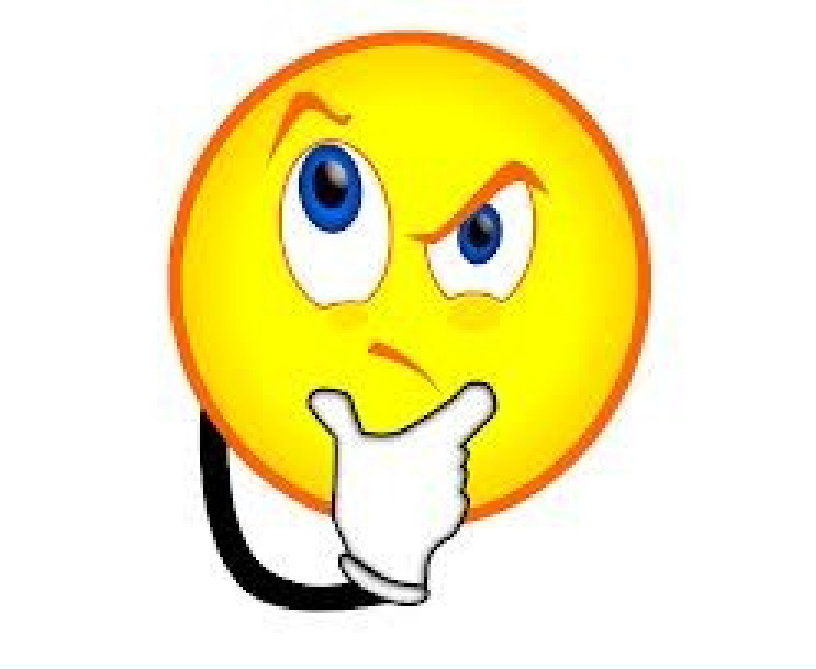
Jones House

- New block wall not the prettiest looking in basement.
- Did not want to lug buckets of mortar through house to basement and spill on floor, carpets
- Is fully mortared on outside of wall.

Jones House

Want to pour concrete Cross-Wall to keep my big concrete wall from tipping.

How do I do form up a cross wall in a small hole I can't get in?



Jones House

Jones House

Ready to pour cross-wall

Jones House

Phase #3 Cross-Wall Completed

Jones House

Phase #4 Re-lay top courses of bricks

Strevell House Window Repair

Window AC Unit in small room before renovation started

Strevell House Window Repair

- Window was dry-walled over in new restroom (Inside)
- Exterior window frame not removed and piece of OSB board nailed over window opening
- I caulked and painted in summer of 2021
- Need new cedar siding to fill opening
- Fairbury lumberyard story
- Special order Menards for $112

Strevell House Window Repair

How to cut window sill flush without disturbing finished dry-wall inside of house?

Strevell House Window Repair

Strevell House Window Repair

- Left OSB board in place
- Added stud to nail new siding to

Strevell House Window Repair

Strevell House Window Repair

Fun picking up all the shaved foam pieces ☺

Strevell House Window Repair

Can't tell there was a window there :)

Strevell House Book

Charles Strevell's 2 Books

Original Title/ Abstract - Lockbox

Collins Miller Research Materials

All rare documents scanned and uploaded to Archive.org for future generations

Abraham Lincoln
&
The Strevell Family of Pontiac, Illinois

-Library at University of Utah
-Charles Nettleton Strevell boxes of files

Online Newspaper Searches

Google Book Searches

1878 Liv. Co. History Book

Tom Ewing files

Registry of Historic Places

-Tax Records
-Real estate transfers

Strevell House New Book

- **Interesting findings so far**
  - Collins Miller got extremely rare and valuable documents from Library at U of Utah in Salt Lake City
  - Nettleton family tree was very difficult to figure out
  - One of few times Ancestry.com not much help
  - Secret was 1896 letter written to Charles Strevell by a cousin with the family tree ☺
  - Jason W. Strevell's wife's family tree also was a challenge

Strevell House New Book

- **Interesting findings so far**
  - Jason Strevell's wife quite a poet
    - Found about 6 of her poems
    - Was published in a poetry magazine
  - Jason Strevell and Elizabeth Kelly's only child, Helen, was born same day as Lincoln's visit to Pontiac !!
    - No mention by Jason Strevell when he wrote letter about Lincoln's visit to Pontiac in 1901

Strevell House New Book

- **Interesting findings so far**
  - Son of Z. H. Nettleton that was not adopted by Jason Strevell's
    - Narrowly escaped death from Nebraska Indians
    - Sued step-father claiming he should have inherited some of his father's farm land, and won suit !
    - Married Pontiac girl and moved to Joliet
    - Last mention in 1933 by telegram to Charles N. Strevell
    - Don't know when/where he died

Strevell House New Book

- **Interesting findings so far**
  - Z. H. Nettleton died in Pontiac in 1857
    - Bought 6 lots in Pontiac Cemetery
    - 3 stones on lots, but unreadable and no records
    - Jim Melvin cleaning with D2 cleaner so we can read them

Strevell House New Book

- **Interesting findings so far**
  - Mysterious daughter Mary of Z. H. Nettleton and Elizabeth Kelly
    - Shows up in Census but no first name
    - Only mention of her name, Mary, in hand-written family history that Charles Nettleton Strevell wrote
    - Don’t know birth date, death date, where buried
    - Small stone typical for young child on plot in Pontiac Cemetery, might be for her!

Strevell House New Book

- **Interesting findings so far**
  - Z. H. Nettleton built Greek Revival style home in Constantine, Michigan. On Historic Register, in 1847

Strevell House New Book

- **Interesting findings so far**
  - He also built another house similar to Pontiac Strevell House in Constantine

Strevell House New Book

- **Book**
  - Usually use 6x9 or 8.5x11 inch format
    - Went with 8.5x11 for this book
  - Next big question, Color or Black and White?
    - Black and white => $15
    - Color => $30
    - Chose color because including photos of house inside and outside
    - Don’t plan on selling a lot of copies
      - Will have for sale at Strevell House

Strevell House New Book

- **Book Progress**
  - All of Collins Miller’s content in the book
  - Next is reviewing Tom Ewing's content items
  - At 250 pages
    - + 20 pages of house = 275 pages

Strevell House New Book

- **Book Progress**
  - 90% Done with book
  - Will print copies for people to review
    - Dale C. Maley =1
    - Collins Miller = 1
    - Tom Ewing = 1
    - Bob Sear = 1
    - Judy Wells = 1 (sister-in-law retired teacher)
    - Anyone interested in reviewing draft copy?

The End

Questions?